UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/774
18 August 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NAMIBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to forward to you, on behalf of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the communiqué on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo issued by the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, at its fiftieth ordinary session, at the ambassadorial level, held at Addis Ababa on 17 August 1998.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Martin ANDJABA
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Chairman of the African Group for the
month of August

98-24233 (E) 180898

/...

Annex

Communiqué issued at Addis Ababa on 17 August 1998 by the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, at the ambassadorial level

The Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution met at its fiftieth ordinary session today, 17 August 1998, at the level of ambassadors. Mr. T. A. G. Makombe, Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to OAU, chaired the session.

The session discussed the current crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. At the end of its session, which considered the report from the OAU delegation currently visiting the region, the Central Organ:

1. Expressed its grave concern at the unfolding crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its possible implications for peace, security and stability in the region;

2. Reiterated its support for the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and OAU's commitment to the unity, cohesion and respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in accordance with the provisions of the OAU Charter and, in particular, with the provisions of resolution AHG/16/1 adopted in Cairo in 1964 on territorial integrity and the inviolability of national boundaries as inherited at independence;

3. Condemned the recourse to armed rebellion in the settlement of grievances and called upon the rebels in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to immediately lay down their arms and seek constructive dialogue with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in order to seek redress of their grievances;

4. Called for an immediate cessation of hostilities in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and condemned all external interventions in the internal affairs of that country under any pretext whatsoever. It called for an immediate end to all such external interventions;

5. Expressed its concern over the possible humanitarian consequences of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, if the situation is allowed to deteriorate further;

6. Fully supported and endorsed the initiatives and approaches launched by the Regional Summit held at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, aimed at establishing a framework for defusing the crisis, as well as the follow-up initiatives undertaken by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Defence of Zimbabwe, Angola, Namibia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia;

7. Requested the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to enter into urgent consultations with all concerned and closely coordinate

OAU's efforts with those of the countries of the region and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with a view to seeking a speedy and peaceful end to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.